NEWSLETTER

October 2025

By: Ross Whelan

Dear Friends,

If you were hoping for a captivating header here that sums up our 2025 season, forget it! I tried. Reminiscing about all the good times had, our accomplishments, my pride in our team … I get lost for words. Pictures, on the other hand, well that's different. Let me explain.

Thank You!

It's like Grandpa always said: "The harder we work, the luckier we get." I don't know how else it happens, but we seem to have the market cornered on good people. All our favorites keep coming back and all the new guests have been 'right up our alley' type of folks. It's another indicator of success and a real treat to meet more of you each year.

We know you go through a lot to plan and travel a great distance to come enjoy our little piece of the planet. We get a short time to showcase our hospitality and put you on fish, and it's surprising how gratifying it is to be your hosts and how there's a certain sadness that hangs on us when you leave.

From all of us to all of you: Thanks for coming and we wish for every one of you to come back!

Just To Name A Few

My visit to the island in September coincided with a group that was there for the 42nd time and it's always good to see Bill & Bob again. So many faces come to mind. Perhaps someday I'll do a case study on Jack or Mike & John if they'd let me share their experience with our subscribers. It's just fascinating to me to hear about the camp's history from guys like them.

I was also lucky to meet the famous Swedish and Finnish guests that I'd heard so much about. One of them brought his son for the first time, who promptly caught his first Musky on day 1 … exactly where his Dad did and with the same gear he'd used all those years ago. It all made for one of many appreciated campfire stories. Those gents had a blast, as did we watching it unfold. While I returned to Alberta, the owner of an adventure travel company was checking in from Hungary with a videographer, so stay tuned for that.

Another set of winners of the **Muskies Matter** trip came this year, as did Muskie Mark et al, as well as Kevin and his **The Shadow of the Wolf** trip winners. We continue to proudly give back and support good causes like theirs. Thanks, fellas!

How was the fishing this year? Let me show you!

Lake Kishkutena deserves an honorable mention, first of all. Its reputation for Bass and Musky is well earned, and plenty of guests came to prove it again this year. The work Scott & Jase did on the cabin and property has been a benefit to all, and the upgrades are continuing this winter. Check our facebook page for the short drone video we posted and watch us develop this fine Outpost Cabin of ours!

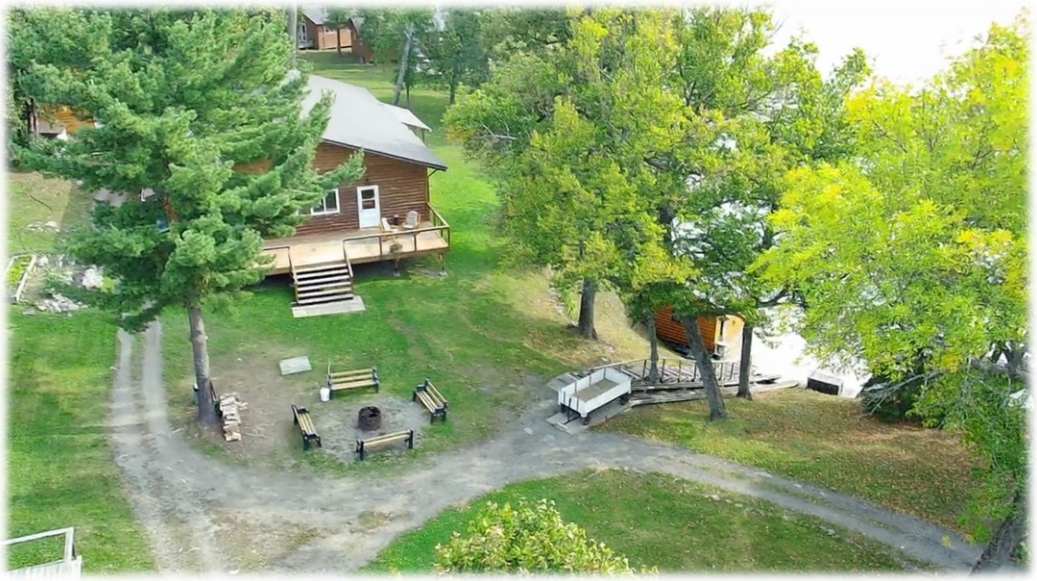
Good action around the island is what most have come to expect, especially in the Spring and Fall. Musky were particularly active in Stevens Bay this year. Lots of folks said, “You don’t have to go very far to find them.” Mid to late summer was hot and got smokey from northern wildfires while the fishing was a mixed bag. Experienced anglers experimented with lures and techniques, and ventured further out. Some landed PB’s and other milestones after getting skunked for the first 3 days. Guides were a saving grace for some while others simply had a great time shoveling shore lunch fish into the boat.

At The Lodge

I couldn't be prouder of all the work we got done. With Scott managing, supervising and coordinating the work and simultaneously operating the camp, it's impressive that none of our infrastructure escaped attention this year.

Warning: run-on sentence, dead ahead! Two new boats in the water & 1 major dock upgrade, all that lodge furniture, 2 major cabin siding jobs, 2 new rooves, new floors in the office and 2 cabins, 2 new toilets, laundry / refrigeration / pantry expansions, 2 rebuilt patios, upgraded and relocated water filtration system, new cabin fridges, erosion control and window blinds … we also removed a ton of old supplies, tore down the majority of staff accommodations and started a replacement, reinforced decks, leveled and reinforced the lodge's 60 footings, finished our power panel … and I'm probably forgetting some.

Camp is in excellent shape and we have a lot more planned. At the moment, for example, Jase & Jaden are putting in some overtime to help Scott rebuild the staff house, burn garbage and haul scrap off the island before snow flies. It's all hands on deck to have staff accommodations ready by spring!



What a Team!

Jase & Jaden are fine young men that came a long way from home to work their butts off in all conditions to keep guests served, our boats in good shape, grounds clean and docks organized.

Some background: Jase initially applied to work at my oilfield company in Alberta last spring. During the interview, he mentioned fishing as a hobby, so I offered him our Dockhand role. He hopped into his old Ford Ranger the next day … and almost made it, but I'll let Jase tell you that part of the story.

Jase quickly proved himself handy with a strong work ethic and at least two sense to rub together. He took training from Scott well, and command of his role in shuttle deliveries and dock service. He was thorough with an eye for detail and showed care for our camp and guests' satisfaction. Scott crowned him Lead Hand and we were fortunate to have him back again.

This year, we hired Jase's younger brother, Jaden. Jase taught him the ropes, to be diligent, with critical reasoning and tough brotherly love. I watched Jaden shovel dirt under the lodge and rake leaves during the day, and fuel up boats in the rain at night … doing what he's told. He learned the importance of his responsibilities, never complained or slept in, and only got stronger and smarter as summer went on. It's been a win-win to offer Jaden this experience, and he succeeded.

Many of you might not have met Mitch because he did his work while you were fishing, but he was our handyman dedicated to our upgrades full time this year. Scott noticed early that Mitch was taking the time to do quality

workmanship, and more than once said to me: “It’s been nice to be able to give Mitch a project and know it will get done right.” So, we piled it on.

Anyone that’s been to our camp in the last 10 years has met Sheila and seen her smile at you. You would be forgiven for thinking she’s your server but she’s a lot more than that. She’s humble and probably doesn’t want to be mentioned, but her & Lily worked shorthanded through some busy periods this year to keep up, and not one ball was dropped. Sheila’s the one we trust to make sure your cabin is clean and ready on time every time; that our lodge, kitchen, laundry and pantry are organized, and a thousand details don’t get missed.

Lily & I would not have met your expectations without these people. Full kudos to them!

2026 Sports Shows

Coming to your neighborhood soon (hopefully)! In the spirit of mixing up our travels to at least one new event each year, as well as regularity at some of our favorite “home bases,” it’s a privilege to announce the 4 shows we’ve picked for 2026 where we hope to see as many friends as possible and brag about our camp to anyone willing to listen. Please stop by our booth to say hi and grab our new giveaway graft!

- Chicago All Canada Show: Jan 29 - Feb 1
- Tulsa Sport & Travel: Feb 2-8
- Wisconsin Fishing Expo: Feb 27 - Mar 1
- Minneapolis Northwest Sport Show: Mar 5 - 8

Special thanks to all those that have left feedback with staff, on google, facebook, in cabin journals and in private messages. I’m glad to know we’re serving you well and your support is very much appreciated. We’re focused on putting our marketing dollars to the best possible use in order to maximize the value we can put back into the camp, and positive reviews from people like you are the best advertising we can ever hope for.

Lily & I are 100% committed to providing value that outstrips our price. I strategize with Scott almost daily about it, so I know he shares our vision and belief that we’re on target. To that end, we’ve decided that the 2024 prices currently posted on our website and in our brochures will remain in effect on all reservations confirmed with a deposit before the end of 2025. A minor adjustment is expected in 2026 that will reflect our pricing philosophy with the last 2 years of inflation. Updates will be published in our next brochures and on our website in the coming months.

Thanks again and good luck to all!

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